

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A disk device comprising:
a disk controller comprising a channel adapter, a cache memory, and a disk adapter; and
a disk array comprising disk drives, each being equipped with a plurality of I/O ports,
wherein said disk adapter and said disk array are connected via a switch, and
wherein a destination drive I/O port, which is one of the plurality of I/O ports,
to which a frame is to be forwarded is determined by the disk adapter, according to the type
of a command included in an exchange that is transferred between said disk adapter and one
of said disk drives.

2. (currently amended) A disk device according to claim 1, wherein the
destination drive I/O port to which said frame is to be forwarded is determined, depending on
whether the type of the command is a data read command or a data write command.

3. (original) A disk device according to claim 2, wherein said exchange
for reading data and said exchange for writing data are executed in parallel.

4. (currently amended) A disk device comprising:
a disk controller comprising a channel adapter, a cache memory, and a disk adapter; and
a disk array comprising disk drives, each being equipped with a plurality of I/O ports,
wherein said disk adapter and said disk array are connected via a switch,
[[and]]

wherein a path which a frame passes to be transferred between said switch and one of said disk drives is determined, according to the type of a command included in an exchange between said disk adapter and the one of said disk drives,

wherein the path which said frame passes between said switch and the one of said disk drives is determined, depending on whether the type of the command is a data read command or a data write command, and

wherein said exchange for reading data and said exchange for writing data are executed in parallel.

5. (currently amended) A disk device according to claim 4, wherein the path which said frame passes between said switch and the one of said disk drives is determined, ~~depending on whether the type of the command is a data read command or a data write command~~ by the disk adapter.

6. (currently amended) A disk device comprising:
a disk controller comprising a channel adapter, a cache memory, and a disk adapter; and
a disk array comprising disk drives, each being equipped with a plurality of I/O ports,
wherein said disk adapter and said disk array are connected via a switch,
wherein said disk adapter determines destination information within a frame to be transferred from said disk adapter to one of said disk drives, according to the type of a command included in an exchange between said disk adapter and the one of said disk drives, and

wherein said switch selects one of port to port connection paths between a port to which said disk adapter is connected and ports to which the disk drives constituting said disk array are connected to switch each frame inputted to the switch, according to the destination information within the frame.

7. (currently amended) A disk device comprising:

a disk controller comprising a channel adapter, a cache memory, and a disk adapter; and

a disk array comprising disk drives, each being equipped with a plurality of I/O ports,

wherein said disk adapter and said disk array are connected via a switch,

wherein a destination drive port, which is one of the plurality of I/O ports, to which a frame is to be forwarded is determined, depending on whether the type of a command included in an exchange that is transferred between said disk adapter and one of said disk drives is a data read command or a data write command, and

wherein said exchange for reading data and said exchange for writing data are executed in parallel.

8. (currently amended) A disk device comprising:

a disk controller comprising a channel adapter, a cache memory, and a disk adapter; and

a disk array comprising disk drives, each being equipped with a plurality of I/O ports,

wherein said disk adapter and said disk array are connected via a switch,

[[and]]

wherein a path which a frame passes between said switch and one of said disk drives is determined, depending on whether the type of a command included in an exchange between said disk adapter and the one of said disk drives is a data read command or a data write command, and

wherein said exchange for reading data and said exchange for writing data are executed in parallel.

9. (currently amended) A disk device comprising:

a disk controller comprising a channel adapter, a cache memory, and a disk adapter;

a plurality of disk drives, each being equipped with a plurality of I/O ports;

and

a switch connecting said disk controller and said plurality of disk drives,
wherein a destination drive port, which is one of the plurality of I/O ports, to
which a frame is to be forwarded is determined, depending on whether the type of a
command included in an exchange that is transferred between said disk adapter and one of
said disk drives is a data read command or a data write command, and
wherein said exchange for reading data and said exchange for writing data are
executed in parallel.

10. (new) A disk device according to claim 7, wherein the destination
drive port to which the frame is to be forwarded is determined by the disk adapter.

11. (new) A disk device according to claim 8, wherein the path which said
frame passes between said switch and the one of said disk drives is determined by the disk
adapter.

12. (new) A disk device according to claim 9, wherein the destination
drive port to which the frame is to be forwarded is determined by the disk adapter.

13. (new) A disk device comprising:
a disk controller comprising a channel adapter, a cache memory, and a disk
adapter; and
a disk array comprising disk drives, each being equipped with a plurality of
I/O ports,
wherein said disk adapter and said disk array are connected via a switch,
wherein a destination drive I/O port, which is one of the plurality of I/O ports,
to which a frame is to be forwarded is determined, according to the type of a command
included in an exchange that is transferred between said disk adapter and one of said disk
drives,
wherein the destination drive I/O port to which said frame is to be forwarded
is determined, depending on whether the type of the command is a data read command or a
data write command, and

wherein said exchange for reading data and said exchange for writing data are executed in parallel.

14. (new) A disk device according to claim 6, wherein said disk adapter determines the destination information within the frame, depending on whether the type of the command is a data read command or a data write command.